

WHEREAS, the CCMP also recognizes the importance of involving the public in making decisions regarding natural resources and environmental management, and research;

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED**:

Section 1. Establishment.

An **Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program Office** is hereby established to coordinate and facilitate the implementation and advancement of the CCMP, the APNEP mission, and the activities of the Policy Board and Advisory Committees. The APNEP Program Office shall serve as a conduit for information between the Policy Board, Advisory Committees, state and federal agencies, local government, tribes, academia, and the public. The Program Office will be located in the Offices of the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

A **Policy Board** for the Albemarle-Pamlico watershed shall be established to work with DENR and the Program Office to support, evaluate, update, advocate, and guide the implementation of the CCMP and the APNEP mission.

A Committee of Citizen Advisors ("**Citizen Advisory Committee**") for the Albemarle-Pamlico watershed shall be established to advise and support the Policy Board, and to serve as liaisons to local agencies and interested parties regarding environmental and natural resources management concerns and issues relevant to implementation of the CCMP and the APNEP mission.

A Committee of Science and Technical Advisors ("**Science and Technical Advisory Committee**") for the Albemarle-Pamlico watershed shall be established to advise the Policy Board and agencies responsible for implementation of the CCMP on scientific and technical issues.

A Committee of Management Agency Representatives ("**Management Advisory Committee**") for the Albemarle-Pamlico watershed shall be established to facilitate and support the implementation and advancement of the CCMP management actions and the APNEP mission.

Section 2. Program Boundaries.

The boundaries of the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program are the geographic area of each of the following river basins as defined by the hydrologic boundaries ascribed to it by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources:

1. Neuse (including areas of the White Oak River Basin that drain to Core and Bogue sounds),
2. Tar-Pamlico (including areas draining directly into the northern Pamlico Sound),
3. Roanoke (that portion of the basin below Lake Gaston dam),
4. Chowan (including the portion of the basin located in Virginia),